

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07646 241337Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

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R 241150Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6148

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY Y IJUSL

RSHAWVAYUEXJVRHJD

BOR

QUDDPUASKSGDSN1RPZZHP/

HONSUL HONG KONG 2113

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CH

SUBJ: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS: WARM WORDS IN DELHI

1. INDIA'S AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE K.R. NARAYANAN AND THE CHINESE ACTING CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN DELHI LIU HSING-FU EXCHANGED WARM WORDS ON SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS AT AN INDIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY FUNCTION IN DELHI MAY 23. (AFTER LONG INACTIVITY, THIS ORGANIZATION WAS REVIVED A YEAR AGO.) NARAYANAN SAID THAT HE WOULD EXPLORE ALL AVENUES FOR STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP WITH CHINA, A GREAT NEIGHBOR OF INDIA " FOR AGES PAST AND AGES TO COME". "EVEN A MINIMUM OF NORMAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA IS BOUND TO HAVE A GREAT IMPACT" ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

2. IN REPLY THE CHINESE ACTING CHARGE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NARAYANAN WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROMOTION OF FRIENDSHIP AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS DURING HIS TOUR.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 07646 241337Z

"THIS PRECIOUS FRIENDSHIP MUST BE DEVELOPED FOR GENERATIONS."

THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE DELHI MEETING ADD THAT NARAYANAN IS PLANNING TO LEAVE FOR HONG KONG EN ROUTE TO PEKING ON JUNE 28.

3. COMMENT -- THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1962 THAT SENIOR INDIAN AND CHINESE OFFICIALS IN DELHI HAVE TOGETHER EXCHANGED SUCH WARM REMARKS ABOUT SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS AND SO CLEARLY ANTICIPATED THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS. THE MEA JOINT SECRETARY (POLICY PLANNING), WHO IS AN OLD AND CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF NARAYANAN AND WHO WORKS DIRECTLY FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTRY'S POLICY PLANNING COMMISSION (THE LAST INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO PEKING, G. PARTHASARATHY), TOLD POLCOUNSELLOR A WEEK AGO WITH CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE THAT THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER DISPUTE COULD BE SETTLED WITH RELATIVE EASE ON BASIS OF CHOU EN-LAI'S 1960 PROPOSAL TO NEHRU, AND THAT HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A SUBJECT WHICH TWO SIDES COULD GET TO IN A YEAR OR SO AFTER BOTH AMBASSADORS WERE IN PLACE.

4. NARAYANAN IS A CAREFUL MAN AND WE ASSUME HIS COMMENTS WERE VETTED AT A HIGH LEVEL BEFORE BEING MADE. WITH THE PM'S VISIT TO MOSCOW ONLY TWO WEEKS OFF, THE INDIANS ARE GOING STRANGELY OUT OF THEIR WAY TO EMPHASIZE THE NEW FLAVOR OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE.
SAXBE

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